

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A fiber comprising:

(a) a fiber of an elastomeric polymer capable of imbibing a chemotherapeutic agent;
and

(b) a therapeutically effective amount of the chemotherapeutic agent imbibed in the fiber;

in which:

the fiber has a core of a segmented polymer; the segmented polymer has soft segments and hard segments; the hard segments are urethane; the soft segments are selected from the group consisting of polyester, polyether, and mixtures thereof; and the hard segments are linked to the soft segments by covalent bonds;

a denier value in the range of 40 to 4,000;

a tensile strength higher than 0.5 grams per denier; and

a break elongation of at least 400%;

the fiber requiring a stress to elongate selected from the group consisting of 0.03 to 0.4 grams per denier to develop an elongation of 200% and 0.07 to 0.6 grams per denier to develop an elongation of 300%.

2.-9. Cancelled

10. (Currently Amended) An assembly comprising a box and a dental floss at least partially enclosed in said box, the dental floss comprising:

(a) a fiber of an elastomeric polymer capable of imbibing a chemotherapeutic agent;
and

(b) a therapeutically effective amount of the chemotherapeutic agent imbibed in the fiber;

in which:

the fiber has a core of a segmented polymer; the segmented polymer has soft segments and hard segments; the hard segments are urethane; the soft segments are selected from the group consisting of polyester, polyether, and mixtures thereof; and the hard segments are linked to the soft segments by covalent bonds;

a denier value in the range of 40 to 4,000;

a tensile strength higher than 0.5 grams per denier; and

a break elongation of at least 400%;

the fiber requiring a stress to elongate selected from the group consisting of 0.03 to 0.4 grams per denier to develop an elongation of 200% and 0.07 to 0.6 grams per denier to develop an elongation of 300%.

11.-13. Cancelled

14. (Currently Amended) A fluoride-containing fiber prepared by adding a fiber to an aqueous solution or dispersion of a fluoride salt for a time sufficient for the fiber to imbibe fluoride;

in which:

the pH of the aqueous solution or dispersion is greater than about 1; and

the fluoride-containing fiber comprises at least about 1,000 ppm of water soluble fluoride the fiber has a core of a segmented polymer; the segmented polymer has soft segments and hard segments; the hard segments are urethane; the soft segments are selected from the group consisting of polyester, polyether, and mixtures thereof; and the hard segments are linked to the soft segments by covalent bonds;

a denier value in the range of 40 to 4,000;

a tensile strength higher than 0.5 grams per denier; and

a break elongation of at least 400%;

the fiber requiring a stress to elongate selected from the group consisting of 0.03 to 0.4 grams per denier to develop an elongation of 200% and 0.07 to 0.6 grams per denier to develop an elongation of 300%.

15. -18. Cancelled

19. (Currently amended) A method for preparing a fluoride-containing fiber, the method comprising adding a fiber to an aqueous solution or dispersion of a fluoride salt for a time sufficient for the fiber to imbibe fluoride;

in which:

the pH of the aqueous solution or dispersion is greater than about 1; and

the fluoride-containing fiber comprises at least about 1,000 ppm of water soluble fluoride the pH of the aqueous solution or dispersion is greater than about 1; ~~and~~

the fluoride-containing fiber comprises at least about 1,000 ppm of water soluble fluoride;

the fiber has a core of a segmented polymer; the segmented polymer has soft segments and hard segments; the hard segments are urethane; the soft segments are selected from the group consisting of polyester, polyether, and mixtures thereof; and the hard segments are linked to the soft segments by covalent bonds;

a denier value in the range of 40 to 4,000;

a tensile strength higher than 0.5 grams per denier; and

a break elongation of at least 400%;

the fiber requiring a stress to elongate selected from the group consisting of 0.03 to 0.4 grams per denier to develop an elongation of 200% and 0.07 to 0.6 grams per denier to develop an elongation of 300%.

20.-29. Cancelled

30. (New) The fiber of claim 1 in which the fiber comprises at least about 1,000 ppm of water soluble fluoride.

31. (New) The fiber claim 30 in which the fiber has a denier value of about 200 to 2,500.
32. (New) The fiber of claim of 31 in which the chemotherapeutic agent is sodium fluoride.
33. (New) The fiber of claim 1 in which the fiber comprises at least about 2,000 ppm of water soluble fluoride.
34. (New) The fiber of claim 33 in which the fiber has a denier value of 540.
35. (New) The assembly of claim 10 in which the fiber comprises at least about 1,000 ppm of water soluble fluoride.
36. (New) The assembly of claim of 35 in which the fiber has a denier value of about 200 to 2,500.
37. (New) The assembly of claim 36 in which the chemotherapeutic agent is sodium fluoride.
38. (New) The assembly of claim 37 in which the fiber comprises at least about 2,000 ppm of water soluble fluoride.
39. (New) The assembly of claim 38 in which the fiber has a denier value of 540.
40. (New) The method of claim of 19 in which the fiber has a denier value of about 200 to 2,500.
41. (New) The method of claim 40 in which the chemotherapeutic agent is sodium fluoride.
42. (New) The method of claim 41 in which the fiber comprises at least about 2,000 ppm of water soluble fluoride.
43. (New) The method of claim 42 in which the fiber has a denier value of 540.
44. (New) The fiber of claim 1 in which:

the fiber is a continuous single strand;

the chemotherapeutic agent is sodium fluoride;

the fiber comprises at least about 2,000 ppm of water soluble fluoride;

the fiber has a denier value of 540.

45. (New) The fiber of claim of 31 in which the chemotherapeutic agent is stannous fluoride.